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FILE CLERK



ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers -

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: When you hear the term "National Forest" does it signify to you just an area set aside on which to grow trees for a future timber supply or do you think of it as a great public property made up of an aggregate of natural resources including wood, water, forage, power, scenery, game, fish and recreation? All of these are perpetual or renewable resources which may be used and enjoyed by the present generation and also preserved for the use of future generations. Among the scenic resources of the National Forests are many spots of outstanding beauty, as well as unusual rock formations, caves and other interesting phenomena. It is of course part of the forest ranger's job to see that such parts of the National Forests are made available to the public but they also must see to it that in the development of these objects of special interest they are not impaired for future use.

During our last visit to the Pine Cone District, Rangers Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick, while surveying a section of the Forest boundary in the rough limestone country discovered a large cave. As we tune in today the Rangers are just about to enter the cave for a little exploration. The mouth of the cave is a small opening in the face of a canyon wall down which Jerry was making his way with the aid of a rope when he discovered the cave. Jim Robbins went to get Jerry's flashlight and a ball of twine for use in exploring the cave. As we tune in Jim has just reached the ledge near the mouth of the cave. Here they are.



JIM: Well, that's quite a climb down here -- Where does this ledge go to?

JERRY: Just around the cliff a little way then it pinches out. -- But look at this hole Jim, right back of the bush. -- I threw some stones into it and you can hear echoes.

JIM: Here's your flashlight -- I brought that ball of twine and some candles too.

JERRY: Gosh Jim, there's a great big room down there, I can't see the other -- Oh -- what was that?

JIM: (LAUGHS) Just a little bat --

JERRY: Gosh, it flew right in my face.

JIM: Gave you quite a start, eh? Let me have a look. -- Yeah -- that's quite a cave -- Feel the current of air coming out of it.

JERRY: Yeah, I noticed that -- I tried to light a match a little while ago but the draught blew it right out.

JIM: Yeah, it would -- this is typical of limestone formation. There may be miles of passages down there.

JERRY: Whatcha say we explore it?

JIM: Yeah -- we might go in for a ways -- I'd like to know how much of a cave there is.

JERRY: How will we get in there -- it drops right off. 00-00-00.

JIM: (LAUGHS) What's the matter Jerry, afraid of those bats?



JERRY: Naw, I ain't afraid of 'em, but I don't like 'em flying in my face all the time.

JIM: Well, let me see if I -- oop -- la --

JERRY: (LAUGHS) How do you like your bats?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) They give you quite a start, don't they? Seem to be more anxious to get out of that hole than we are to get into it. --

JERRY: Say, Jim, if we only had something to hang onto I believe we could slide down that wall into the cave.

JIM: What about the rope? Let's play down the hole and go down it.

JERRY: Sure, just the thing. - Here, I'll pull it over (ASIDE) Wait -- it's caught on that bush. - O.K. take it away.

JIM: (CLOSE UP) There - all ready?

JERRY: I'll go first Jim -

JIM: Got your flashlight? Where's that ball of string?

JERRY: Yeah - I've got the light. - Here's the ball on the ground.

JERRY: (LOUDER) Here goes --

JIM: Go easy boy--careful you don't fall--(SHOUTS) Make it all right, Jerry?

JERRY: (OFF) All right, Jim--come on down.

JIM: Flash your light on the wall so I can see where I'm going. --There, that's it--(GRUNTS) (SEVERAL MORE GRUNTS) (FEET SCRAPING AGAINST THE ROCK) There--(CHUCKLES) Well, we're in here - like a couple of kids if we never get out.



JERRY: Gosh, it's dark in here - the light don't spread. It lights up just where it strikes.

JIM: Poor reflection -- Throw your light down to the end of the room--there--about 60 feet, wouldn't you say?

JERRY: About that -- now over this way - gosh, look at the bats.

JIM: A regular rookery for them.

JERRY: Look at the dry sticks and twigs -- Where do you s'pose?

JIM: Mountain rats - there must be another opening. They never came down that wall where we did.

JERRY: This is a dirty hole.

JIM: Well, let's go on down -- see what's below. Stick to the rope and be careful of that light.

JERRY: (WARMLY) You bet I will -- Gosh, it's clammy in here.

JIM: Watch your step -- it's rough going --

JERRY: I'm all right - can you see?

JIM: Yeah, just hold the light so you can see where you are going. I can follow. (FEET SCRAPING ON ROCKS)

JERRY: Coming all right, Jim?

JIM: (OFF) I'm coming. Take it easy though - this is rough going.

JERRY: Here's the end of the rope.

JIM: We'll tie this string to it and pay it out as we go.

JERRY: Here, give it to me --

JIM: Be sure and tie it tight -

JERRY: Yeah - there, that'll never come off. Here, you take the light - I can't hold it and pay out the string.



JIM: All right, I'll go ahead.

JERRY: (EXCLAIMS) Gee Whiz? What was that?

JIM: What's the matter?

JERRY: (GIGGLES NERVOUSLY) Oh, it's just water - drop of cold water on my neck. Thought I was shot

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Nerves kind a taut in place like this. Let's see -- yeah, it's dropping from that seam up there - Look, there's some nice crystals -- if we get down below the water table we'll probably find clean crystal formations. This is pretty dirty here - not very much of it

JERRY: Gee, this passage is getting pretty small Jim.

JIM: If we can squeeze through it probably opens up again farther on. That's the way these caves generally are - just a series of caverns connected by small openings.

JERRY: (GRUNTS) Flash your light down here Jim I'm hung some way. -- (GRUNTS) (WITH RELIEF) (OFF) There -- think you can get through, Jim? Sure is a tight fit - (LAUGHS) It's a fat man's misery.

JIM: I'll make it, all right. (GRUNTS)

JERRY: (ACCOMPANIED BY GRUNTS AND NOISE OF CRAWLING OVER ROCKS) This isn't getting any better. Ouch! Gosh, that rock's a lot harder than my head.

JIM: Slide down feet first -- but watch yourself you don't fall off into a hole.

JERRY: Hey, Jim, pass me the flashlight a minute.

JIM: Here 'tis - be careful, don't drop it.



JERRY: Don't worry (LAUGHS) That'd be a calamity (AWED TONES)
Jim, just look at that. Did you ever see anything like it?

JIM: Jerry, that's the finest crystal formation I ever saw.

JERRY: Gosh, it's brilliant white - just like frost.

JIM: See, it forms from the water that splashes off that rock shoulder.

JERRY: It looks too fragile to hold up -- wonder if its hard --
Oh, oh!

JIM: Don't break it.

JERRY: Gee - I hardly touched it - it sure is fragile.

JIM: Yeah, that frost work is -- but look down there under that hanging wall -- Stalagmites.

JERRY: Stalactites --

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I reckon we're both right on those that reach from the floor to the ceiling.

JERRY: It looks like the inside of a great cathedral--makes me feel like I was in church.

JIM: It's sure a grand sight -- it's hard to think of a thing as beautiful as this buried down here under the hills that nobody ever sees. I reckon no one has ever seen it before.

JERRY: I always did want to get some place that I knew nobody had seen before.

JIM: There's mighty few spots on earth like that one -- you have to get under ground in a place like this to be sure of it.
(LIGHT TAPS) Careful, don't break 'em.



JERRY: I won't - I was just (MUSICAL SOUNDS LIKE MUFFLED DEEP TONES ON XYLOPHONE) Well, what d'ya know about that? (CHIMES) Real Cathedral chimes.

JIM: How long do you s'pose it took for that big one to form?

JERRY: I wouldn't have much idea -- 10,000 years?

JIM: Probably all of that -- maybe more. Long enough that it could never be replaced.

JIM: We're just about at the end of the string I think. We'd better call it trail's end for this time and start back.

JERRY: Aw shucks - we haven't got started yet. No telling what lies right down in the next room.

JIM: Yeah, I know but we don't dare to leave this string.

JERRY: We could go a little ways - we could find our way back to this cathedral easy enough.

JIM: On the contrary, Jerry, we could easily miss it entirely. There's probably a lot of passages leading out from these rooms. It's typical of the caves in this limestone formation.

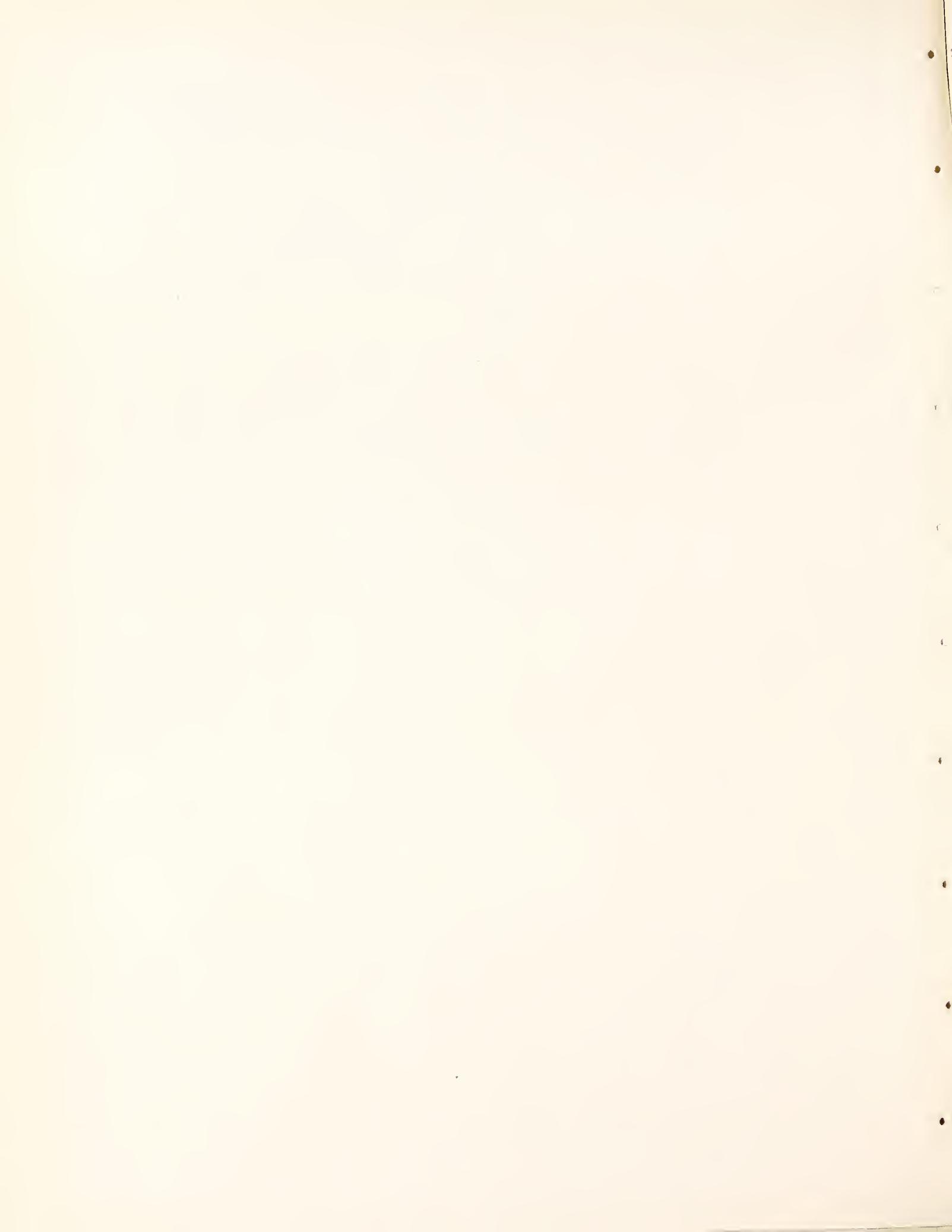
JERRY: Let me just go down to the end of this room. I want to see what's down there. I won't be gone but a minute.

JIM: On condition you'll come back when I call. I don't want you to get out of ear-shot.

JERRY: O.K. I hate to leave you in the dark.

JIM: I brought a candle. I'll light that if I need it.

JERRY: Look -- this passage branches - one opening there, and one there, and two over there.



JIM: Better keep to the largest one.

JERRY: (OFF) I hear water dropping some place (CALLS) It's right around this corner.

JIM: (CALLS) Better come back Jerry.

JERRY: (CALLS) I'll just climb over this hump - b'lieve I can see it then. (BUMP) (CLATTER) Oow !

JIM: (CALLS ANXIOUSLY) You'd better come back, son.

JERRY: (CALLS) I will soon as I find my flashlight.

JIM: (CALLS) FIND YOUR FLASHLIGHT? -- You didn't lose that?

JERRY: (CALLS) No, just slipped and dropped it.

JIM: (CALLS) Can't you see it?

JERRY: (CALLS) No - went out - I got it.

JIM: (CALLS) Good - come on back now.

JERRY: (CALLS) The darn thing won't light - my gosh, Jim, it musta broke.

JIM: (CALLS) That's tough luck. Wait, I'll light this candle to guide you. (SCRATCHES MATCH) Be careful you don't break a leg.

JERRY: (UNEASY) Gosh, it's dark -- I can't see a thing.

JIM: (CALLS) Take it easy, boy, light a match and get your bearings.

JERRY: (OFF) I'm up now. -- Heck, it's gone.

JIM: (CALLS) Steady son, - light another match.

JERRY: (OFF) I did but the draught snuffs it right out.

JIM: (CALLS) Did you see any holes going in.

JERRY: (OFF) Can't remember.

JIM: (CALLS) Wait a minute - I'll come in a little farther.

(FOOTSTEPS) Oww! -- Can't make it boy -- draught snuffs the candle.

JERRY: (PANNICKY) My lord, are you in the dark too?

JIM: (CALLS) No; I'm all right now -- you'd better get down and crawl -- I'll guide you.

JERRY: (OFF) I'll try it.

JIM: (CALLS) Take it slow -- this way (PAUSE) This way - are you makin' it?

JERRY: (OFF) Yep - coming - wow! Doggone that rock, - which way, Jim?

JIM: Over here - take it easy - this way.

JERRY: (OFF) I see the light - whoopla - does that look good?

JIM: (LAUGHS) Yeah - I got a taste of it when the candle went out - comin'?

JERRY: (COMING UP) Glory be - let me look at this flashlight.

JIM: Hurry up this candle's about gone.

JERRY: The globe's busted -

JIM: I was 'fraid so - come on, son, we gotta beat it like the devil was after us.

JERRY: Go ahead - I'll hold the string tight and you can slide your hand along it and travel faster.

JIM: For the love of Mike - don't break it.

(PAUSE)

JERRY: We must be close now, Jim.

JIM: (PUFFING) Gosh yes - seems like we've come a mile - Blast it - there it goes again.



JERRY: Here, I'll light it (SCRATCHES) Well, I'll be darned. - That draught took it right away. (SCRATCHES) There you are.

JIM: Yeah, come on - where's the string?

JERRY: Right here - my gosh, look, - it's all here in a pile

JIM: We musta broke it when we were monkeyin' with the candle. -- Now we're stuck.

JERRY: No, there's only one passage here -- we're almost out - just this last slope.

JIM: I can't recollect anything like this.

JERRY: Well, to make sure, I'll climb up and see - you stay here 'till I'm sure about it.

JIM: All right - go to it - we gotta do something.

JERRY: I'll crawl - it's safer. (SHOES SCRAPE) (CALLS OFF) That light don't reach very far - it's as black as ink up here (YELLS) Owwup!

JIM: (STARTLED) What -

JERRY: (OFF..LAUGHS) Come on, Jim. I put my hand right on that bloomin' rope - thought it was a snake, for a second.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Boy, that sounds like good news. Give me that rope.

JERRY: There's the opening up there - can you make it?

JIM: Sure - go ahead.

JERRY: (CLIMBS..GRUNTS) (CALLS OFF) O.K. Jim.

JIM: (CLIMBS..PUFFS) (COMING UP) Hmm, that's pretty tough on an old man -



JERRY: (LAUGHS) Look out there - don't that look good.

JIM: I guess I never saw the sunshine before like that (BOTH LAUGHS)

ANNOUNCER: Well, things looked pretty dark there for awhile - but I guess Ranger Jim and Jerry aren't any the worse for it - and they'll be back on the air again next Friday at this time. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers is presented by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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